

to concentrate on his dying. He stopped in the middle of it and told John to behold his mother, and from the cross we are reminded of the importance and the love and the strength of our mothers and the kind of moral character that they have conveyed on to us.

I would trust that as we go forward with the congressional agenda that we will not invoke pain through policy and through measures on mothers who attempt in every way that they know how to care for their families, both spiritually and economically.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of recognition of Mother's Day 2002 to honor mothers across the world and to honor the profession and the calling of mothering.

I make these remarks today in memory of my own daughter, a wonderful mother to two little boys before she died 2 years ago, and in honor of their father, her husband, who is doing a fabulous job of parenting and mothering them.

The second Sunday in May is an opportunity for each of us to reflect upon our own upbringing and to offer gratitude to the one who has nurtured us the most, and many of us know firsthand being a mother is much more than a biological process. Every day women who have never given birth become mothers to abandoned, separated or orphaned children.

Last week, Save the Children unveiled their "State of the World's Mother 2002" report. The report was assembled to assess the state of mothers and children in the volatile regions of war and conflict. The findings of this report are particularly pertinent given our Nation's war on terrorism.

After 23 years of conflict, Afghanistan is slowly recovering with assistance from governments and humanitarian agencies such as Save the Children. Specifically, the report tells us that investing in mothers is one of the most effective ways to help post-conflict societies achieve reconciliation and move forward.

Often after enduring years of destruction and chaos, women step up to play highly constructive roles as peace-makers and rebuilders. In Afghanistan, we know that reconstruction largely depends upon the reintegration of women in that society. For this reason, in December Congress passed the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act into law. This law will provide vital educational and health care assistance to women and to children in that region.

The need for increased aid to war-torn Nations, the majority of which are in the developing world, is clear. Mothers and children in these regions are in-

deed at great risk of death, disease, displacement and exploitation; and because of those factors, the cycle of difficulty goes from one generation to the next.

The United States does not fare as badly as the developing world in terms of maternal health; but our country has its own set of problems, which includes high rates of violence against women. This epidemic, perpetrated against 31 percent of American women, is undeniably a serious concern; and while domestic violence is a criminal justice issue, it is really at its core a matter of public health.

Women experience 85 percent of violent victimizations; and each year at least 6 percent of all pregnant women, about 240,000, are battered by the men in their lives. This battering leads to complications of pregnancy, including low weight gain, anemia, infections, first and second trimester bleeding. So domestic violence poses a considerable threat to maternal health.

To combat this problem, I have introduced the Domestic Violence Vaccining and Treatment Act, which would dramatically increase the scale of intervention and prevention efforts. My legislation would urge every health care provider to screen women over age 18 for domestic violence. In the confidential environment of a doctor's office, health care professionals would serve as a bridge between the patient and the criminal justice system.

Specifically, my bill would provide health care professionals with the training needed to assess women for signs and symptoms of abuse and then to supply her with adequate treatment and referrals. This routine verbal screening for domestic violence, fairly straightforward and simple procedure, would unlock options a woman may not otherwise pursue and allow her to see that shelter and advocacy services may be useful to her.

We know that battered women comprise up to 30 percent of ambulatory care patients, but only one in 20 is correctly identified as such, and I hope my legislation will help in clearly identifying victims of violence in order to pinpoint the perpetrator and to end the cycle of abuse.

Another goal of the legislation is to identify problems before they escalate to prevent in the long term this cycle of domestic violence from repeating itself from one generation to the next. As we well know, a child's survival is largely dependent upon the health and well-being of his or her mother or caretaker.

So this Mother's Day, let us bear in mind the vital role that women play in creating a peaceful and prosperous world for all children. As I have pointed out, this statement rings true not only for mothers in our country but for mothers living in developing countries around this world.

Women hold families together. Therefore, women hold communities and whole Nations together; and thus,

mothers are a crucial link in the livelihood and survival of our Nation's future as well as the future of the world as a whole.

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#### RELIGIOUS LEADERS OPPOSE THE SPREAD OF GAMBLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this week 220 religious leaders across the spectrum signed an open letter to this Congress and to the Bush administration calling on the Nation's leaders to oppose the further spread of gambling.

The signers are across the spectrum of the religious views in this country. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the country to address the devastation that gambling has wrought on our children, our families, communities and Nation, is what they wrote.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize the significance of this letter. This is not a message from political leaders, this is not a message from business or labor, this is not a message from many of the usual interest groups that express their views here every day. Rather, it is a message from our Nation's moral and spiritual leaders. Not often do so many religious leaders from such broad perspectives speak out on any issue. But when they do, it is noteworthy.

Recall the issues of slavery, the civil rights movement, elderly and child poverty, the dangers of communism, South African apartheid, famine and humanitarian issues throughout the world. All these issues commanded the attention of the Nation's spiritual leaders. The incredible spread of gambling is also a call to arms for our Nation's faith communities.

Why are so many in the religious community so alarmed? Legalized gambling, once relegated to a few areas of the country, continues to spread at an alarming rate, so quickly that soon almost every American will be within driving distance of a casino. Gambling expansion has swept the Nation, with revenues jumping from about \$1 billion in 1980 to well over \$50 billion today. That means Americans lose on average of \$137 million every day of the year from gambling. Let me say that again: Americans lose on the average \$137 million every day of the year from gambling.

In short, while the explosion of various forms of gambling across America has generated revenue for States and for the gambling industry, it has left in its wake human misery that is only now beginning to be understood. This misery ends up costing the States more than they receive and creates a vicious cycle as the need for social services dramatically increases. Whether a State lottery, a casino or a "cruise to nowhere," gambling is a losing bet for funding legitimate social needs.